

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE JOHN M. WILLIAMS

JUDGE TRACIE M. HUNTER



Judge John M. Williams
Administrative Judge



Judge Tracie M. Hunter



Court Administrator
Curtis E. Kissinger

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OVERVIEW

Hamilton County Juvenile Court has the responsibility to hear and determine all cases and issues concerning children in Hamilton County. Additionally, the Juvenile Court administers programs and facilities providing for the custody, care and rehabilitation of youth within its jurisdiction.

The types of cases appearing before the Juvenile Court include:

- Delinquency cases in which a youth is charged with what would be a crime for an adult.
- Dependency cases in which it is alleged that a child has been abused or neglected by a parent or other person.
- Paternity/Child Support cases to determine parentage and collect support.
- Traffic cases in which a juvenile is charged with violating traffic law.
- Custody cases in which the parties disagree concerning with whom the child should live or visit.
- Adult cases in which there is an issue of contribution to a child's delinquency or failure to send a child to school.
- Various other cases which impact the best interests of children.

Two judges direct the work of the Court. In 2013, those judges were Administrative Judge John M. Williams and Judge Tracie M. Hunter. The judges, along with the Court Administrator, Curtis Kissinger, oversee all Court operations, including:

- Department of Docketing and Case Management comprised of the Child Support Department, Clerk's Office, Dependency Department, Docketing Department and Record Room.
- Magistrates Department comprised of 20 magistrates who hear a large volume of cases in various jurisdictional areas.
- Department of Court Services comprised of the Probation Department, Intervention Unit, and Work Detail.
- The Youth Center, a 160-bed secure detention center, housing youth in secure custody pending court hearings.
- Various administrative departments encompassing the Office of Court Administrator, Human Resources, Finance, Information Services, Security and Operations.

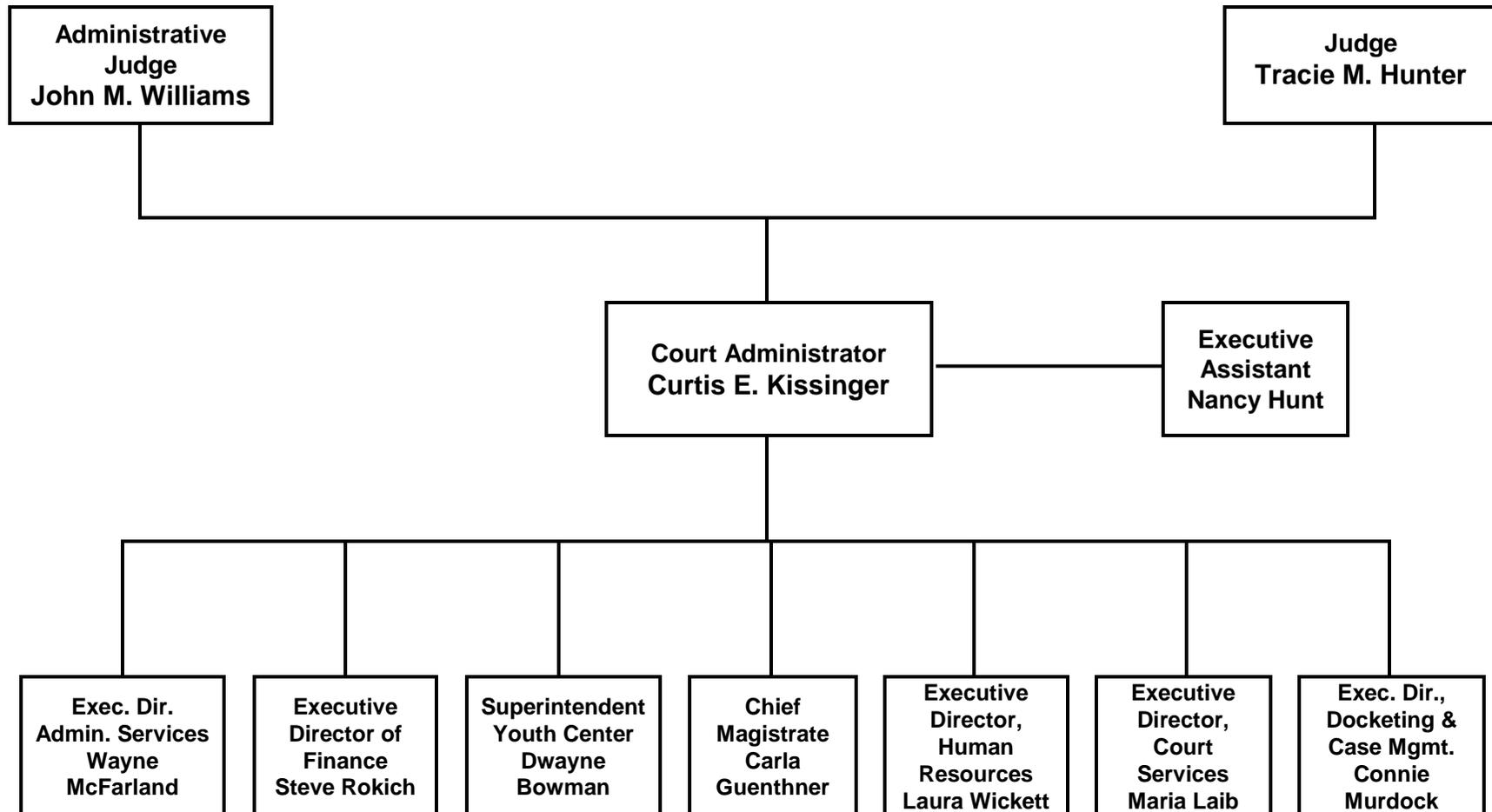
In May 2012, Rite of Passage assumed operational control of Hillcrest Training School, a 142-bed residential treatment center, previously operated by the Juvenile Court. In 2013, the Court began realizing the benefits of this collaborative partnership through the receipt of increased Title IV-E funds for the reimbursement of placement cost, and the ability to provide for a local placement facility for youth in need of therapeutic and educational services at a time when the Court has experienced significant financial constraints.

The Court also contracts with various placement and program services offered by child care agencies, including inpatient secure diagnostic services, shelter care housing children, custodial drug treatment centers, youth counseling programs, etc.

The Juvenile Court is fortunate to enjoy the services of many volunteers who give their time, expertise and money for the enhancement of children. Volunteer programs include over 30 community unofficial hearing officers where members of the legal profession deal with minor infractions, diverting the case from official charges. Volunteer chaplains provide spiritual guidance to youth held in the custody of the Court. An Advisory Council composed of citizens in the community directs services and funds to enhance court programs which cannot be funded by tax revenue to provide needy children with clothes and positive life experiences.

The National Council of Juvenile Court and Family Court Judges designated the Hamilton County Juvenile Court as the nation's first model court. Hamilton County programs are praised by the national judicial and correctional associations and in published reports. Judges and officials from around the nation and across the world have traveled to Cincinnati to observe our Court.

Hamilton County Juvenile Court



COURT ADMINISTRATION

In 2013, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court again experienced a reduction in its budget. Since 2008, the dollars appropriated from the County General Fund to the Court have been cut by 55%. Given the economic constraints, financial decisions have been prioritized to minimize the impact of these reductions on the core services the Court provides to children and families.

In a continuing effort to manage the budget reductions, the Court has focused on pursuing available state and federal funds to offset expenses for the treatment of youth. For example, with the public-private partnership the Court formed with Rite of Passage to assume operational control of the Hillcrest residential treatment facility, the Court realized new revenues from federal IV-E funds totaling approximately \$877,000. In addition, as a result of the Court's effort find appropriate placement settings for youth, other than Ohio Department of Youth Services institutions, the Court received \$7.3 million in available RECLAIM funds. The Court has also allocated three of its magistrates to preside over child support cases exclusively whereby increasing its entitlement to federal IV-D funds.

Case filings of almost every type again declined in 2013. In addition, the recent trend of increasing dependency and neglect filings leveled off in 2013. However, the Court has seen a noticeable rise in felony delinquency filings which appears consistent with the serious incidents of youth violence and offenses involving guns.

Despite financial challenges, the Court has been fortunate to retain a dedicated core of employees who, year after year, regardless of circumstances, continue to provide quality public service to the children and families of Hamilton County.

CASE MANAGEMENT

DOCKETING/CASE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Docketing and Case Management Department of the Juvenile Court is responsible for docketing and presenting all complaints filed, maintaining and updating all legal records, and maintaining audio recordings for Magistrates' hearings. The department consists of 45 employees and 5 supervisors who handle cases involving Delinquency, Unruly, Custody, Visitation, Traffic, Adult Jurisdiction, Child Support, and Dependency.

COMPLAINTS AND SOME MOTIONS FILED

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
DELINQUENT & UNRULY	15,338	13,816	12,484	12,130	11,719
TRAFFIC	4,345	3,922	3,332	3,009	2,804
PATERNITY & SUPPORT	662	409	530	403	261
UIFSA COMPLAINT FILED	N/A	24	114	60	13
OBJECTION TO ADMIN. ORDER	413	365	372	372	236
CONTEMPT MOTIONS	2,249	3,990	3,524	3,282	2,755
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	754	699	683	628	489
MOD. OF SUPPORT - CSEA	1,769	1,740	1,458	1,641	1,237
REGISTRATION of ADMIN. ORDER	2,723	2,608	2,596	2,387	1,740
REGISTRATION of FOREIGN ORDER	N/A	118	184	114	71
ADMIN. MODIFICATION ORDER	1,760	1,722	1,455	1,639	1,208
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT	3,407	3,499	3,530	3,597	3,374
DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT & ABUSE	692	631	646	679	663
CUSTODY, VISITATION & HABEAS CORPUS	1,371	1,426	1,530	1,378	1,333
MOTION CUSTODY / VISITATION	1,199	1,256	1,286	1,065	1,047
MISCELLANEOUS	3	2	3	1	3
ADULT MISDEMEANOR .	1,375	1,288	1,152	930	933
OBJ TO MAG DEC / SET ASIDE ORDER	404	410	408	386	455
JUVENILE PROTECTION ORDER	N/A	33	41	46	41
TOTALS	38,464	37,958	35,318	33,747	30,382
HEARINGS CONDUCTED	128,764	120,169	120,028	118,853	118,800
HEARINGS PER CASE	3.35	3.17	3.40	3.52	3.91
HEARINGS PER DAY	515	481	480	475	475
DELINQUENT FILINGS	14,285	12,682	11,432	10,970	10,636
FELONY FILINGS	2,323	1,820	1,571	1,627	1,655
JUVENILES PC TO DYS	107	49	48	20	31
JUVENILES BOGJ	70	49	52	35	16

CLERK'S OFFICE

In Hamilton County, Judge John M. Williams and Judge Tracie M. Hunter are the Ex Officio Clerks of the Juvenile Court. All cases filed are processed through either the Clerk's Office at 800 Broadway, or at the Youth Center Clerk's Office. The Clerk's Office at 800 Broadway consists of the Chief Deputy Clerk and 11 employees. The Clerk's Office staff screen, process and image new complaints and motions; send service to notify parties of court dates; prepare mandated, and internal statistical reports; establish restitution accounts; and process financial transactions for restitution, fines, court costs, purges, bond, and other ordered fees.

JUVENILE JURISDICTION

DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED

HOMICIDE	2012	2013	ARSON AND RELATED OFFENSES	2012	2013
Aggravated Murder	1	2	Making Terroristic Threats	1	0
Murder	2	1	Crim. Poss. of Chemical, Biological, Radio	2	0
Reckless Homicide	1	0	Active or Nuclear Weapon		
TOTAL	4	3	Aggravated Arson – Person	11	7
ASSAULT			Aggravated Arson – Property	6	9
Felonious Assault	92	78	Complicity Aggravated Arson	0	1
Complicity Felonious Assault	1	4	Arson – Private Property	5	12
Attempt Felonious Assault	1	1	Arson – Public Property	9	6
Felonious Assault – Peace Officer	0	1	Arson – Land	8	0
Aggravated Assault	1	3	TOTAL	44	35
Vehicular Assault	1	1	DISRUPTION, VANDALISM, DAMAGE		
Assault	606	566	Disrupt Communication Services	0	1
Assault, Teacher, Admin., Bus Driver	51	42	Disrupt Transportation/Utility Services	0	5
Assault Child Service / Agency Worker	5	0	Disrupt Services – Emerg. Personnel	1	0
Assault Corrections Officer	10	9	Vandalism	35	46
Assault Peace Officer	12	15	Criminal Damaging	375	269
Complicity Assault	2	0	Complicity Criminal Damaging	1	2
Negligent Assault	1	0	Attempt Criminal Damaging	1	0
TOTAL	783	720	Criminal Mischief	30	33
MENACING			Vehicular Vandalism	14	2
Aggravated Menacing	122	103	Railroad Vandalism / Trespass	1	5
Complicity Aggravated Menacing	0	1	TOTAL	458	363
Menacing	107	106	ROBBERY		
Menacing Child Service / Agency Worker	2	3	Aggravated Robbery	183	132
Menacing By Stalking	3	3	Complicity Aggravated Robbery	3	6
TOTAL	234	216	Robbery	133	162
KIDNAPPING			Complicity Robbery	2	6
Kidnapping	8	5	Attempt Robbery	2	3
Complicity Kidnapping	1	0	TOTAL	323	309
Abduction	1	0	BURGLARY		
TOTAL	10	5	Aggravated Burglary	9	11
EXTORTION			Complicity Aggravated Burglary	1	0
Coercion	1	0	Attempt Aggravated Burglary	0	2
TOTAL	1	0	Burglary	220	276
SEXUAL OFFENSES			Complicity Burglary	2	9
Rape	41	39	Attempt Burglary	10	27
Complicity Rape	0	1	Breaking and Entering	101	106
Attempt Rape	1	4	Complicity Breaking and Entering	2	1
Gross Sexual Imposition	15	21	Attempt Breaking and Entering	1	2
Attempt Gross Sexual Imposition	0	1	TOTAL	346	434
Sexual Imposition	14	3	TRESPASS		
Importuning	1	0	Criminal Trespass	285	366
Public Indecency	13	6	Aggravated Trespass	1	9
TOTAL	85	75	TOTAL	286	375
PROSTITUTION			SAFECRACKING		
Soliciting	0	1	Safecracking	2	0
TOTAL	0	1	Tamper With Coin Machine	0	1
OBSCENITY			TOTAL	2	1
Pandering Obscenity	0	1	THEFT		
Pandering Sexual Matter Involving Minor	0	4	Theft	978	865
TOTAL	0	5	Grand Theft	10	7
			Theft of Drugs	0	2
			Complicity Theft	12	18
			Complicity Grand Theft	1	1
			Attempt Grand Theft	6	2
			Attempt Theft	4	8
			Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	15	27

THEFT (continued)	2012	2013
Complicity Unauthorized Use of Vehicle	1	0
Auto Theft	31	41
Unauthorized Use of Property	2	4
Passing Bad Checks	3	0
TOTAL	1,063	975

MISUSE OF CREDIT CARDS		
Misuse of Credit Cards	17	4
Complicity Misuse of Credit Cards	1	0
TOTAL	18	4

FORGERY		
Forgery	12	2
Criminal Simulation	1	4
TOTAL	13	6

FRAUD		
Telecommunications Fraud	1	0
Identity Fraud	1	0
TOTAL	2	0

RECEIVING		
Receiving Stolen Property	76	59
Receive Stolen Prop – Drug/Auto/Firearm	94	116
Receiving Stolen Property – Over	19	21
Attempt Receiving Stolen Property	1	0
TOTAL	191	196

GAMBLING		
Public Gaming	2	6
Gambling	0	2
TOTAL	2	8

OFFENSES AGAINST PEACE		
Inciting to Violence	2	1
Aggravated Riot	17	2
Riot	1	0
Failure to Disperse	1	1
Telecommunication Harassment	11	9
Inducing Panic	22	48
Making False Alarms	11	15
Disorderly Conduct	876	720
Disorderly Conduct – Intoxicated	35	7
Misconduct at Emergency	4	3
TOTAL	980	806

OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY		
Endangering Children	7	1
Interfere With Custody	1	1
Contribute to Unruliness / Delinquency	0	1
Domestic Violence	339	334
Domestic Violence Felony	54	29
Violation of Protection Order	5	3
TOTAL	406	369

OFFENSES AGAINST JUSTICE		
Failure to Disclose Personal Information	7	4
Intimidation	5	0
Intimidating Victim / Witness	2	1
Retaliation	4	0
Falsification	114	137
Tampering with Evidence	15	19
Failure to Report a Crime	1	0
Obstructing Official Business	461	525
Obstructing Justice	5	3
Resisting Arrest	132	104
Flee and Elude Police Officer	7	3

OFFENSES AGAINST JUSTICE (cont.)	2012	2013
Attempt Flee and Elude Police Officer	1	0
Fail to Comply with Police	1	6
Fail to Comply with Police – Felony	5	8
Escape	11	7
Complicity Escape	0	1
Attempt Escape	4	0
Convey Drug/Weapon into Detention	3	3
Harassment by an Inmate	0	3
TOTAL	778	824

ATTEMPT, COMPLICITY, CONSPIRACY		
Conspiracy	1	0
Attempt	12	9
Complicity	20	20
TOTAL	33	29

WEAPONS CONTROL		
Carrying Concealed Weapon	75	118
Carry Concealed Weapon Felony	4	10
Have Weapon Under Disability	26	22
Use Weapon While Intoxicated	1	0
Weapon in School Safety Zone	7	16
Possess Object Indist. from Firearm	9	3
Discharge Firearm Habitation / School	4	4
Possess Dangerous Ordnance	0	1
Defacing Identification of a Firearm	1	0
Possess a Defaced Firearm	1	3
Firearm – Transport Loaded	6	4
Improp. Handling Firearm in Motor Vehicle	2	7
Possess Criminal Tools	21	31
TOTAL	157	219

DRUG OFFENSES		
Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs	0	7
Agg. Trafficking in Drugs Near School	2	2
Trafficking Drugs	4	2
Trafficking Drugs Near School	6	2
Drug Trafficking Marijuana	24	12
Drug Trafficking Marijuana Near School	16	12
Drug Trafficking Cocaine	5	2
Drug Trafficking Cocaine Near School	1	3
Drug Trafficking Heroin	6	1
Drug Trafficking Heroin Near School	13	5
Attempt Drug Trafficking	0	1
Aggravated Possession of Drug	6	4
Possession of Drug	27	20
Possession of Cocaine	17	19
Possession of Heroin	19	15
Possession of L.S.D.	0	2
Possession of Marijuana	420	456
Possession of Hashish	0	1
Permit Drug Abuse in a Vehicle	0	3
Possess Drug Abuse Instrument	7	2
Possess Drug Paraphernalia	186	151
Abusing Harmful Intoxicants	3	1
Possess Counterfeit Cont. Substance	8	9
Traff. Counterfeit Controlled Substance	3	1
TOTAL	773	733

MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES		
Illegal Dist. Of Tobacco Products	0	1
Littering	5	2
Possess Fireworks	1	3
TOTAL	6	6

LIQUOR CONTROL		
Purchase / Consume	208	208
Possess Open Flask	8	12
Permit Underage Consumption	9	7
TOTAL	225	227

	2012	2013		2012	2013
DRIVER LICENSE LAW			VIOLATIONS		
Fictitious License / ID Card	1	0	Violations of Court Order (VCO)	10	13
TOTAL	1	0	VCO Incurrigible	229	216
PHARMACISTS, DANGEROUS DRUGS			VCO Probation	575	485
Purchase, Poss., Sell Dangerous Drug	3	1	VCO Placement	476	479
TOTAL	3	1	VCO Runaway	499	496
HABITUAL / CHRONIC TRUANCY			VCO Truancy	456	422
Habitual Truancy	1	0	VCO Tobacco	1	3
Chronic Truancy	277	492	VCO Work Detail	217	157
TOTAL	278	492	VCO EMU	420	431
MISCELLANEOUS / LOCAL CODES			VCO Curfew Violation	408	370
Miscellaneous Codes	73	68	Parole Violation	88	50
TOTAL	73	68	Interstate Compact Supervision	12	12
			TOTAL	3,669	3,134

TRAFFIC COMPLAINTS FILED

	2012	2013
Licensing of Motor Vehicle	68	39
Driver License Law	108	115
Operation of Vehicle	1,859	1,828
Equipment and Loads	186	161
Motor Vehicle Crimes	46	37
Traffic Offenses	135	81
Local Ordinances	608	543
TOTAL	3,010	2,804

UNRULY COMPLAINTS FILED

	2012	2013
Runaway	363	429
Incurrigible	99	86
Incurrigible Out of County	14	18
Unruly	34	21
Curfew Violation	463	397
Habitual Truancy	216	146
Tobacco Violation	6	4
TOTAL	1,195	1101

RESTITUTION

In 2013, the total restitution collected was \$15,602.70

FINES & COSTS COLLECTED

Fines	\$10,368.97
Court Costs	\$39,442.02
RRF & IDF	\$46,574.25
Computer Fees	\$26,821.40
Legal Research	\$7,794.00
Witness Fees	\$1,748.75
Delivery Fees	\$6,672.65
Work Detail Fees	\$232.00
Restitution Process Fee	\$560.78
Indigent Drivers Alcohol Fund	\$1677.00
Public Defender Application Fee	\$2,641.00
Mediation	\$7,637.65
Special Projects	\$160,236.00
Drug Law Enforcement Fund	\$3,916.00
Diversion Fee	\$95,596.00

DISMISSALS

In 2013, 3,346 delinquent, unruly, traffic and adult misdemeanor cases were dismissed.

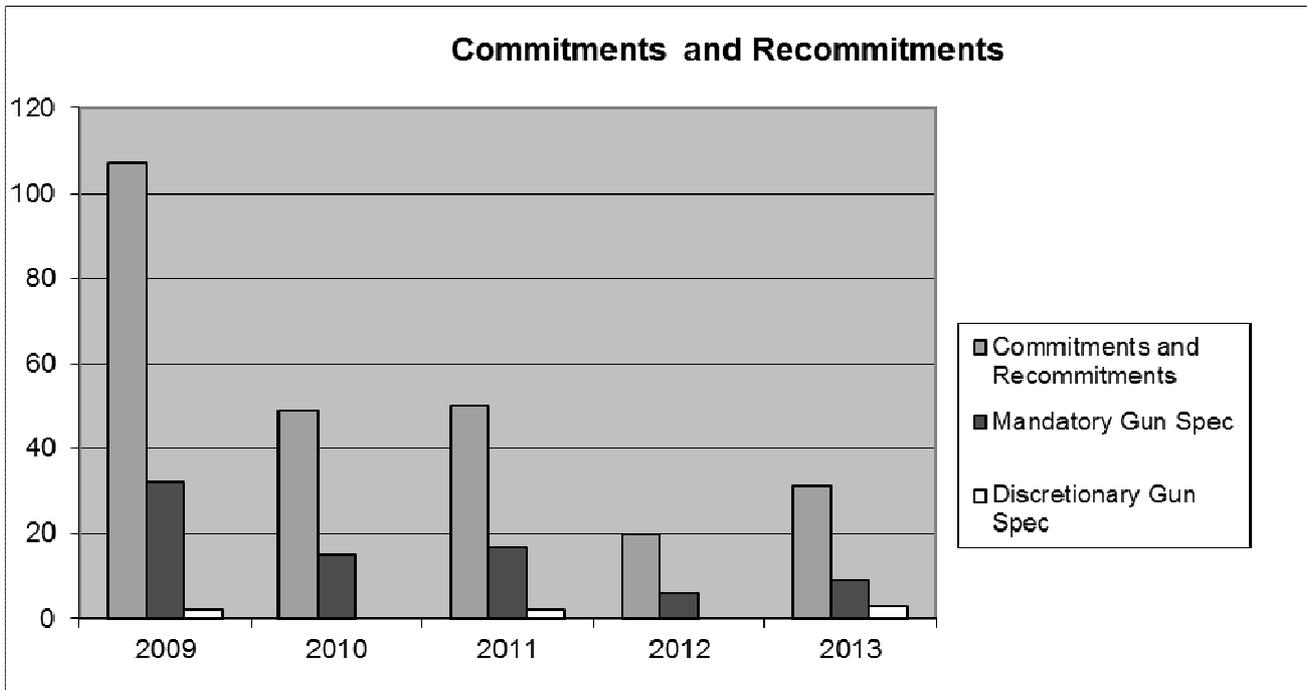
CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED

The following report, mandated by section 2151.18 of the Revised Code, reflects the number of complaints filed with the court, that allege that a child is a delinquent child, in relation to which the court determines under division (D) of section 2151.27 of the Revised Code that the victim of the alleged delinquent act was sixty-five years of age or older or permanently and totally disabled at the time of the alleged commission of the act.

TYPE OF OFFENSE	PROPERTY	THEFT	VIOLENT
DELINQUENT COMPLAINTS FILED	1	24	53
ADJUDICATIONS	1	9	21
ADJUDICATION & RESTITUTION	1	2	5
COMMITTED TO AN INSTITUTION	0	2	2
TRANSFERRED FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION	0	0	1

COMMITMENTS TO THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

The Court committed thirty-one juveniles to the Department of Youth Services in 2013. Seven juveniles had their parole revoked in 2013. Twenty-nine percent of the total youth committed were mandatory commitments as a result of a gun specification.



Commitments To DYS

	2013		
	Boys	Girls	Total
Committed	26	0	26
Recommitted	5	0	5
Total	31	0	31
Parole Revocations	7	1	8
Grand Total	38	1	39

Commitments/Recommits Characteristics

2013	
Murder (Aggravated)	1
Felony 1	8
Felony 2	8
Felony 3	6
Felony 4	6
Felony 5	2

Five Year Trends for Commitments

	Commitments				
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Boys	82	36	34	16	26
Girls	2	2	2	0	0
Total Commitments	84	38	36	16	26

Commitments vs. Recommitments

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Commitments	84	38	36	16	26
Recommitments	23	11	14	4	5
	107	49	50	20	31

Revocations

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Boys	22	5	4	6	7
Girls	2	1	0	0	1
Total Revocations	24	6	4	6	8

Five Year Trends Commitments/Recommitments - Mandatory

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Commitments	30	15	15	6	8
Recommitments	2	0	2	0	1
	32	15	17	6	9

Five Year Trends Commitments/Recommitments - Non-Mandatory

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Commitments	2	0	2	0	2
Recommitments	0	0	0	0	1
	2	0	2	0	3

TRANSFERS TO ADULT JURISDICTION

In 2013, 16 youth had their cases transferred to the adult division of the Court of Common Pleas. Of that number, 13 of those youth were required to be transferred for trial as a result of their age and the serious nature of the alleged offense.

Bindover Summary for 2013

	Cases	Youths
Carried from 2012	28	14
Carried to 2014	34	19
Filings	189	92
Mandatory	25	13
Discretionary	10	4
Total Bind Overs	35	16

* One youth had both mandatory and discretionary. Youth is only counted once for combined total

ADULT JURISDICTION

DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT AND ABUSE

The Dependency Department is responsible for hearing and deciding all complaints filed by public and private agencies alleging a child to be dependent, neglected, and/or abused. If a child is placed in the care of an agency, the Court must approve and monitor the implementation of the agency's plan for each child. The priorities in handling child protection cases include protecting children, respecting the rights of parents and obtaining permanent homes for children in a timely fashion.

	2012	2013
NEW FILINGS	562 cases 941 children	496 cases 942 children
FILINGS DISMISSED	90 children	150 children
INITIAL DISPOSITIONS		
Direct Custody to Individual	77 children	93 children
Protective Supervision	178 children	182 children
Temporary Custody	635 children	536 children
Permanent Commitments	38 children	27 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	25 children	16 children

In 2013, the Court placed 27 children placed in permanent custody as an initial disposition and 125 children in permanent custody as a modification to a prior grant of temporary custody.

In 2013, the Court placed 25 children in planned permanent living arrangements as an initial disposition and 75 children in planned permanent living arrangement as a modification to a prior grant of temporary custody.

CHILDREN UNDER PENDING COMPLAINTS, AGENCY CUSTODY OR SUPERVISION AT YEAR END

	2012	2013
Pending Complaints	341 children	299 children
Protective Supervision	253 children	258 children
Temporary Custody	777 children	679 children
Permanent Custody	225 children	254 children
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	241 children	253 children
TOTAL	1,837 children	1,743 children

In addition to addition to addressing child abuse, neglect and dependency cases, the Court hears and decides motions to modify prior dependency orders. New filings of these cases are set forth below:

	2012	2013
New motions to Modify Prior Dependency Dispositions	318 cases 464 children	308 cases 480 children

OTHER COMPLAINTS FILED

	2012	2013
ADULT MISDEMEANORS		
Failure to Send Child to School	787	770
Endangering Children	16	17
Tend to Cause Delinquency / Unruliness of a Minor	48	46
Contribute to Delinquency / Unruliness	5	3
Adult Probation Violation	51	68
Violation of EMU	23	29
TOTAL	930	933

	2012	2013
PARENT CHILD RELATIONSHIP	298	160
SUPPORT	2,629	1,887
CUSTODY	1,261	1,197
VISITATION	161	170
CHILD CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY	253	226
CARETAKER AUTHORIZATION AFFIDAVIT	29	24
HABEAS CORPUS	1	0
PERMISSION TO MARRY	0	0
PARENTAL BYPASS	1	3

SOME MOTIONS FILED	2012	2013
CONTEMPT	3,282	2,755
MODIFICATION OF SUPPORT	2,269	1,726
ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION ORDER	1,639	1,208
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS	3,597	3,374
OBJECTION TO ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER	372	236

HEARINGS CONDUCTED	2012	2013
TOTAL HEARINGS CONDUCTED	118,853	118,800
AVERAGE NUMBER OF HEARINGS PER FILING	3.52	3.91

MAGISTRATES

There were twenty full-time and two part-time Magistrates in Juvenile Court at year end. The Magistrates are appointed by the Juvenile Judges to preside over the daily case management in Juvenile Court. The powers of a Magistrate are similar to those of a Judge; however, their decisions and orders are subject to review and approval by the assigned Juvenile Court Judge. In Hamilton County, Magistrates hear and decide delinquency, unruly, dependency, custody, paternity and child support matters in Juvenile Court. Two hearing officers are assigned to preside over delinquency and unruly cases referred for unofficial hearings.

Nine Magistrates are assigned to preside over cases involving allegations of dependency, neglect and abuse of children. They are responsible for deciding the temporary and permanent placement of children. The primary goal of the dependency process is to protect the best interest of the child.

Twelve Magistrates preside over delinquency, unruly, traffic, custody, paternity and child support. In delinquency, unruly and traffic matters, Magistrates preside at the plea and trial hearings and sometimes in conjunction with the Probation Department and Court Services Department to determine appropriate dispositions.

Juvenile Court has jurisdiction of paternity, custody and child support when a child is born out of wedlock, or when married parents have not filed for divorce. The Magistrates oversee proceedings to establish the proper parent/child relationship. In addition to establishing paternity, the Magistrates also set child support orders. A Magistrate has the authority to hold a parent in contempt of court. The Magistrates also decide custody and visitation matters in Juvenile Court. Custody and visitation decisions determine who shall be the residential parent or custodian of a child and provide for the visitation schedule of a child.

UNOFFICIAL COURT PROGRAM

In March of 1975 the Court established an Unofficial Court Program to hear unruly and minor misdemeanor offenses. Supervision of the program is handled by the Executive Director of Docketing and Case Management Department, Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

During 2013 870 juveniles were referred to the unofficial docket on a total of 958 charges. Of the 958 charges heard, 262 charges were referred back to the official docket for hearing.

VOLUNTEER REFEREE PROGRAM

The volunteer referee diversion program exists in Hamilton County in an attempt to divert youth from official delinquent records.

Judge Benjamin S. Schwartz of Hamilton County Juvenile Court initiated the Volunteer Referee Program in 1958. It was the first program of its kind in the country. Attorneys were appointed by the Court as Volunteer Referees to hear unofficial cases of a minor nature within their own community.

The program has continued with few modifications over the years, under Judges William J. Morrissey; Olive L. Holmes; David E. Grossmann; John P. O'Connor, Sylvia Sieve Hendon, Thomas R. Lipps, Karla J. Grady, John M. Williams and Tracie M. Hunter.

Local businesses, schools, police and citizens refer cases. The advantage of the program is that cases are heard within the youth's own community. Generally the cases are heard in the evening, as it is more convenient for all parties to participate. There is high visibility of the child for enforcing house arrest, work details and other measures of discipline.

In 2013, there were 317 juveniles served by the volunteer referee program. Of this number 51 were referred back to the police department or school for further action by the Court. A total of 262 juveniles were handled unofficially and diverted from the system.

MEDIATION

Mediation offers an effective alternative to the traditional court process by using a non-adversarial conflict resolution process in an environment of collaborative problem solving. Mediation provides a forum to parties that promotes the safe, guided exchange of information following simple rules that are clearly explained from the outset. Parties are permitted to explore any avenue of possible resolution unfettered by external restraints.

CUSTODY AND VISITATION MEDIATION

The Court contracts with attorneys and social workers trained in family mediation and dispute resolution to mediate petitions and motions for custody and visitation. The magistrates referred 202 cases involving custody and visitation petitions to mediation in 2013, following a pretrial hearing.

The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 59% of the cases mediated.

CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION

The goal of the Child Protection Mediation Program is to create an atmosphere that values children and families through a reliable process that empowers families and generates reasonable and creative solutions resulting in permanency for children. The types of cases served by the Child Protection Mediation Program included the following: custody or visitation petitions; adjudications of abuse, neglect and/or dependency; dispositional and post-dispositional requests of protective supervision, temporary custody, planned permanent living arrangement and permanent custody; and disputes related to case plan services.

The magistrates referred 61 families to mediation in 2013. The parties reached a full or partial agreement in 74% of the cases mediated.

INDIVIDUALIZED DISPOSITION DOCKET

PROGRAM HISTORY

In 2004, Hamilton County Juvenile Court partnered with the Hamilton County Community Board of Mental Health to implement a juvenile mental health court, known as the Individualized Disposition Docket. This program incorporates the following best practice principles from the *RESOURCE GUIDELINES: Improving Court Practice in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases* and the *JUVENILE*

DELINQUENCY GUIDELINES: Improving Court Practice in Juvenile Delinquency Cases published by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: one magistrate/one family case assignment model; frontloading of services; family engagement in all stages of the proceedings; frequent substantive review hearings; the use of individualized dispositions that includes graduated sanctions/rewards; and community collaboration. The docket serves youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years who are adjudicated delinquent and diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance. Although these youth are at risk for out of home placement, they have a designated caregiver who will work them in an intensive, home-based intervention.

MISSION

The Individualized Disposition Docket is a community collaborative model of service delivery which utilizes an interdisciplinary and integrated team approach to treatment for youth with serious emotional disorders who are involved in Juvenile Court and require specialized, supported care in order to remain in the community. This model of service focuses on the provision of assertive, comprehensive psychiatric interventions designed to assist and empower the family in achieving individualized goals which are tailored to meet their needs, thus eliminating the risk of out of home placement or other court sanctioned dispositions.

SERVICE MODEL

In 2005, the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board contracted with Lighthouse Youth Services to provide the intensive home-based intervention for the youth and families on this docket. Lighthouse utilizes Functional Family Therapy, an evidenced-based model of treatment. Also included in the program design are components of the Assertive Community Treatment (adult mental health court model). This model also integrates drug and alcohol services as over sixty percent of the youth on this docket presented with a co-occurring disorder. The continuum of services available through Lighthouse includes: comprehensive family assessments; twenty-four hour crisis intervention; mental health case management; psychiatric services; medication management; individual and family therapy ; educational support; behavior management; chemical dependency assessment/education; anger management/conflict resolution; and community support and resource development.

STATISTICS

In 2013, twenty-eight youth with serious emotional disorders entered the Individualized Disposition Docket, and the program served a total of forty youth and their families. The Individualized Disposition Docket discharged twenty-six participants from the program in 2013, and 76% of the youth discharged were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

PRETRIAL DIVERSION DOCKET

PROGRAM HISTORY

In early 2004, the Hamilton County Juvenile Court partnered with the Hamilton County Community Board of Mental Health to implement a juvenile mental health court, known as the Individualized Disposition Docket. In implementing the Individualized Disposition Docket, it became apparent there was a need for early identification of mentally ill adolescents before they became entrenched in the legal system. At the same time, Hamilton County Juvenile Court received a Planning and

Implementation Grant through the Department of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance for a juvenile diversion mental health court. In November of 2006, Hamilton County Juvenile Court began a 6 month planning process to divert mentally ill adolescents from traditional court services. In 2009, Hamilton County Juvenile Court received an Expansion Grant through the Department of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance to expand the types of services provided to youth and families on the docket. The Expansion grant will focus on connecting youth and families to non-traditional community supports.

MISSION

The mission of the Pretrial Diversion Docket is to provide early identification and intervention services prior to adjudication in an effort to avoid future contact with the juvenile justice system for youth diagnosed with a serious emotional disorder, who also may have a co-occurring substance use disorder, and have had no contact or minimal delinquency contact with the Hamilton County Juvenile Court.

SERVICE MODEL

In 2006 the Hamilton County Community Mental Health Board contracted with Lighthouse Youth Services to provide the intensive home-based intervention for the youth and families on this docket. Lighthouse utilizes Functional Family Therapy, an evidenced-based model of treatment. Also included in the program design are components of the Assertive Community Treatment (adult mental health court model). This model also integrates drug and alcohol services as over sixty percent of the youth on this docket presented with a co-occurring disorder. The continuum of services available through Lighthouse includes: comprehensive family assessments; twenty-four hour crisis intervention; mental health case management; psychiatric services; medication management; individual and family therapy ; educational support; behavior management; chemical dependency assessment/education; anger management/conflict resolution; and community support and resource development

STATISTICS

In 2013, the Pretrial Diversion Docket admitted thirteen youth with severe emotional disorders to the program and served twenty-four youth and families. The Pretrial Diversion Docket discharged eighteen participants from the program in 2013, and 83% of the youth discharged from the program were in compliance or substantial compliance with their treatment plan at the time of their discharge.

FAMILY TREATMENT DRUG COURT

MISSION

The Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court is a collaborative effort to ensure timely permanence for children in the custody of the Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services or under agency supervision. The goal is to provide the most efficient substance abuse treatment for parents, as a safe return to a sober parent is the most natural form of permanency the system can provide. This program avoids ineffective treatment, ill-informed court decision-making and repetitive litigation that impeded permanency.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As a condition for admission to the Family Treatment Drug Court the parent stipulates to the admissibility of all Family Treatment Drug Court findings and treatment records in any dependency proceeding and waives any further cross examination or confrontation of the reporters to the Family Treatment Drug Court. In exchange for this waiver of rights, the parent receives the benefits of close judicial monitoring of treatment, efficient exchange of information among collaborative agencies, and individualized case planning all of which are designed to effect the safe return of the child. Conversely, unsuccessful completion of the program will be documented in the findings of fact and conclusions of law issued by the Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court and will be considered by the Dependency System for all purposes in the future.

This voluntary program, at its core, protects the due process rights of the participants yet offers the treatment benefits associated with adult drug courts. As a separate tract to the Hamilton County Juvenile Court's model court, which is already conducting close monitoring of the child's case plan, the Family Treatment Drug Court achieves the goal of timely permanency for children within a context that does not unduly compromise parental rights.

The Family Treatment Drug Court began in September of 2002, and received funding through a grant from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. The program is comprised of three phases, and the anticipated time for completion of the program is one year.

STATISTICS

In 2013, thirteen parents entered the Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court, and the program served a total of eighteen clients. The Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court discharged fourteen participants from the program in 2013.

COURT SERVICES

The Department of Court Services is charged with the implementation of a wide variety of Court orders and services directed at prevention, intervention and rehabilitation. There are four separate departments within Court Services: the Intervention Unit, Probation, Placement and Special Services and the Youth Center Psychology Clinic. Services and programs in each of these areas work collaboratively and independently to provide services to youth and their families. Court Services uses general funds and specialized grants to fulfill its mission.

INTERVENTION UNIT

The Hamilton County Juvenile Court Intervention Unit, a division of Court Services, serves families as the result of a child's rebellious, incorrigible, at risk, and delinquent behavior. Efforts are made to contact families within 24 – 48 hours of receiving the referral and schedule an appointment within ten working days. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) are unwilling or unable to attend a session at the Intervention Unit, a Family Counselor will provide crisis intervention by telephone. It is the Intervention Unit's goal to provide direct treatment services to 10% of all families referred. During 2013, 22% of all cases closed were involved in ongoing treatment. Of cases in which the family made the first appointment, 36% returned for additional sessions. A total of 1211 appointments were scheduled for families in 2013.

The duration of a single crisis intervention session is typically 2 – 3 hours. Treatment sessions generally last 1 – 2 hours. Telephone interventions are provided to clients who do not utilize in-person services due to work schedules, transportation problems, lack of child-care, disinterest in counseling, or improvement in the child's behavior. Such cases are monitored for 30 days or longer should problems arise again. Families are encouraged to maintain contact with the assigned Counselor during this period; many may call for additional guidance even after the case is closed. There was an average of 7 contacts per case during 2013.

The Intervention Unit's Family Counselors have assumed case management of all runaway referrals that had been assigned to the Intake Coordinator in the past. This position was eliminated in 2008 due to the County's budget crisis. They offer supportive guidance to the family from the initial filing of the charge through disposition of the case, as well as provide counseling services if requested. Hearing reports offering background information regarding the family, and treatment recommendations are provided to Magistrates.

798 cases were referred to the Intervention Unit during 2013. There has been a decrease in referrals over the past five years, which is directly correlated to the Youth Center's Deputy Clerk's Office reducing the hours during which parent-driven complaints can be filed. Most affected by the change were unofficial unruly/incorrigible and first time runaway referrals. At the same time, there are more families taking advantage of treatment services.

The Unit closed 756 cases during 2013 and provided service to 64% of the families referred. Services included: case management for first time runaway cases, single session interventions, ongoing treatment services and telephone interventions. 25% of cases referred either did not respond to contact attempts or the youth's warrant remained active for over three months. 10% failed to attend their appointment. In many instances, Counselors schedule several appointments with clients prior to case closure, hoping that they would utilize services.

Substance abuse/dependency, physical and sexual abuse, and mental illness remain constant and significant factors affecting family functioning. Many of the youth have had prior exposure to mental health services or psychiatric hospitalization. Ages of youth range from 7 through 17 years. Minority populations represented 79% of youth referred; 49% of the total referrals were female. This was the fifth year that females did not constitute the majority of the referrals, which may be the result of parents not being able to file Runaway charges on weekends. 62% of the 798 referrals received during 2013 were minority youth for whom this was their first contact (unofficial or first time Runaway) with the Juvenile Justice System. The services provided by the Intervention Unit are one of the important ways that the Juvenile Court is addressing the issue of Disproportionate Minority Confinement and/or Contact.

The Intervention Unit assumed management of the Court's Unofficial Docket in 2011. Hearings are held twice per week, with an IU Counselor, the Youth Center's Detention Release Coordinator, and Township Hearing Officer acting as Magistrate. In 2013, 3,511 Unofficial complaints were filed. This is another effort by the Court to address DMC issues as well as provide a diversion process to official Court involvement. When deemed appropriate, families are referred for counseling services provided by the Unit.

In addition to the Unofficial Docket, an Intervention Unit Family Counselor was actively involved in the development and presentation of the Court sponsored L.I.V.E. Cincinnati anti-gun violence program to middle schools throughout the County. Lastly, the Intervention Unit Director continues to provide a Clinical perspective to the Court's Placement Team on a weekly basis, and the Clinical Coordinator offers supervision to student interns from local universities.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Intervention Unit utilizes Brief Strategic Therapy as its primary treatment modality. Bi-weekly live video team supervision sessions occur throughout the year and all Family Counselors are required to participate. This process also ensures that fidelity to the model is maintained. The Intervention Unit's Family Counselors, as well as its Director, are licensed by The State of Ohio Counselor, Social Work, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board. The IU Director and Clinical Coordinator maintain Supervising Counselor status with the Board. In addition to the above, the Unit conducts annual customer service surveys seeking input from both parents and youth.

PROGRAM EVALUATION AND RECIDIVISM RATES

The Intervention Unit assesses the effectiveness of services based upon re-involvement with the Court. Recidivism in this case is defined as **any** subsequent official charge, but does not reflect whether there was an adjudication for the case. The results may be negatively skewed, as Counselors periodically encourage parents to pursue charges as a means of holding children accountable. In addition, minor status offenses and traffic offenses are not differentiated from delinquency charges. To provide a meaningful appraisal of positive outcome, the population was drawn from closures dating from September 2001-September 2013. A recidivism range of 3 months after case closure was used, since that is the standard set by the Department of Youth Services.

REFERRAL SOURCE	TOTAL CLOSED	NEW FILINGS	RECIDIVISM RATE
Dependency Court Magistrates	0	0	0%
Delinquency Court Magistrates	2,116	718	34%
First Time Runaway Program	4,488	1,380	31%
Clerk's Office Unofficial Referrals	5,385	1,025	19%
Probation Department	810	299	37%
Township Unofficial Dockets	136	29	21%
Teen Court	136	6	25%
TOTALS	12,978	3,459	27%

PROBATION AND SPECIAL SERVICES

Probation and the work of the Department are defined under Section 2151 and 2152 of the Ohio Revised Code. It is the duty of all department officers to carry out the orders of the Court and serve to protect the interest of the community. It is the responsibility of Probation Officers to use all suitable methods to aid youth on probation to bring about improvement in their conduct.

In 2013 the Probation Department received 817 cases, 664 referred for Investigation/Supervision, 153 cases referred for Competency. Throughout the year the department averaged 604 cases under Supervision at any given time.

REFERRAL STATISTICS

	2012		Total	2013		Total
	F	M		F	M	
Race						
Asian	0	1	1	1	1	2
Bi-Racial	6	15	21	11	20	31
Black-African American	101	470	571	126	465	591
Caucasian	56	195	251	53	130	183
Hispanic	0	3	3	0	6	6
Mexican-American	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	2	3	0	1	1
Unknown	1	1	2	0	3	3
Referring Offense	F	M		F	M	Total
Felony	30	303	333	40	341	381
Misdemeanor	104	321	425	122	242	364
Violation of Court Order	24	46	70	22	35	57
Unruly	7	11	18	5	5	10
Traffic	0	6	6	2	3	5

Age at Referral	2012	2013
9	0	0
10	7	3
11	14	5
12	30	26
13	51	62
14	107	97
15	158	164
16	183	163
17	185	166
18	93	104
19	3	5
20 and over	21	22
Number of Youth to Terminate at Placement	269	269
Number of Youth to Transfer into Probation	364	364

Referrals to Probation by Offense**	2012	2013
Arson	9	9
Assault	69	79
Attempt, Complicity, Conspiracy	15	24
Burglary	127	130
Disruption, Vandalism, Damaging	15	10
Drug Offenses	70	55
Forgery / Fraud	1	5
Habitual / Chronic Truancy	5	0
Homicide	0	1
Kidnapping	2	0
Liquor Control	20	9
Menacing	10	21
Miscellaneous Offenses	0	0
Misuse of Credit Cards	3	1
Obscenity	0	2
Offenses Against Family	54	56
Offenses Against Justice	35	24
Offenses Against Peace	51	45
Prostitution	1	0
Receiving	24	26
Robbery	79	82
Sexual Offenses	26	19
Theft	102	80
Traffic Related Offenses	6	5
Trespass	7	5
Violations of Court Orders	72	62
Weapons Offenses	33	71
Cruelty to Animals	2	0
Interstate Compact Supervision	12	12

** as defined for Annual Report

PROBATION PROCESS

During the course of a Probation Investigation, the youth is assessed as to their level of risk to re-offend as well as to the type and level of service needs. Dispositional recommendations can vary from releasing the youth back to the full supervision of their parents to enforce sanctions and follow-up with service referrals, to supervision by the Probation Department of varying intensities and to ensure service follow through, to placement in a residential treatment facility designed to address their identified need, to commitment to a state run correctional institution. Along with the risk assessment, offense characteristics, prior Probation adjustment and service history play a large part in the decision making.

During the course of Probation supervision, the youth's level of risk is regularly reassessed. Should a youth be charged with a new offense or fail to abide by the rules of probation, consideration of whether the youth should be referred to placement is reviewed. Re-offending at a felony level while under Probation supervision, in most cases, moves the case in the direction of referral for placement. Consideration for placement is handled through a thorough review of the case with a decision making team consisting of the assigned officer and many levels of management.

SPECIALIZED CASELOADS

SEX OFFENDER SPECIFIC CASELOAD

The Hamilton County Juvenile Court Probation Department utilizes specialized assessments in the investigation of adjudicated sexual offenders. This is part of continuum of care treatment approach that follows the youth through legal, treatment and aftercare settings. The objectives for providing such an approach were: 1.) To determine the general dangerousness of the behavior and threat to the community, current victim and potential future victims. 2.) To estimate the risk of the sexually aggressive behavior being repeated. 3.) To evaluate the specific social, family, environmental and behavioral treatment strengths and needs of the adolescent offender. 4.) To determine specific recommendations regarding the ideal course of intervention and treatment along with secondary recommendations should the ideal course not be possible. All youth adjudicated of a sexually oriented crime are assigned to specially trained probation officers.

GENDER SPECIFIC CASELOAD

Girls Empowered and Motivated for Success (GEMS) is designed to address the specific needs of adolescent females who are on probation. Four probation officers and a supervisor manage the GEMS caseload. The caseload is set up to decrease the risk for re-offending among females on probation. Girls assigned to this caseload receive traditional supervision along with promising practice gender specific programming.

MENTAL HEALTH CASELOAD

This caseload was established with the Court's creation of an Individualized Disposition Docket to address youth with Mental Health issues that lead to their continued involvement with delinquent behavior. This officer is part of a team of Court and community service providers who develop an individualized plan of care for each youth and family accepted into the program. The goal of this program is to provide a seamless system of care, which will help stabilize the youth's behavior, help improve the family's ability to manage the youth and eliminate delinquent behavior. After a period of intensive services, including Functional Family Therapy, the youth and family are transitioned back to less intensive services within their community.

ELECTRONIC MONITORING UNIT (EMU)

EMU is a community surveillance program managed by the Court's Probation Department to provide increased supervision of high-risk youth involved with the court. The program utilizes an electronic transmitter bracelet that is worn by the juvenile, and a field monitoring device that is connected to the existing power and phone lines in the juvenile's home. Using radio frequency technology, the receiver monitors the presence or absence of the juvenile within a specified range. Should the juvenile leave the specified range area, the curfew violation is reported to the department's monitoring center for further investigation by an on duty officer. During 2013, 489 youth were supervised under Electronic Monitoring.

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Youth who are involved with the Juvenile Court Probation Department often need additional services that require connection to community-based programs. Probation Officers are responsible for coordinating referrals and providing supervision for youth enrolled in these programs. The following is a brief description of some of the programs to which youth are referred for outpatient treatment services:

LIGHTHOUSE FUNCTIONAL FAMILY THERAPY (FFT)

The FFT program serves male and female youth age 11-17 that have identified mental health issues and are involved with the Juvenile Court system. The Court contracts with Lighthouse to serve these youth stepping down from placement to assist in the successful reintegration of those youth back into their home and community, and on occasion a general probation youth is also referred, if such referral is warranted. This is a best-practice model that is home-based intensive intervention. It has a strengths-based focus in which the specially-trained therapist engages with the family and builds an alliance towards helping motivate them to want to change. The program offers consultation by a psychiatrist and pharmacological services for youth in need of medication management.

LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Community Management Services include programming for youth transitioning out of placement. These services include: group treatment, individual & family treatment, independent living skills development, case management, vocational and employment readiness preparation, and educational assistance. The Community Management Program provides holistic services, with a continuum of intensity levels, empowering youth to develop and maintain a new productive role within the community. The services are used to target criminogenic needs using a Cognitive Behavioral (CBT) approach while maintaining a holistic view of the clients' treatment needs. The program begins while the youth is still in residential placement and helps to acknowledge the importance of the youth's

relationship with the community to facilitate youth-community interactions. The program helps prepare the youth for progressively increased responsibility and freedom in the community and incentives and graduated consequences are used throughout the stages of programming. The overall goal is for youth to transfer what they have learned in a residential setting to the community. Additionally, social controls including supervision and monitoring are used intentionally with efforts to increase the youth's internal motivations and controls. The program is separated into four phases: *Preparation, Intensive, Stepping out, and Maintenance*. The length of the program depends on the youth's overall level of motivation and ability to adhere to his specific programming and supervision plan. Typically, the program lasts for a period of approximately 6 months. Upon completion of both treatment group programming and supervision reporting requirements, Lighthouse Community Management maintains monthly contact with all program graduates for not less than a 3 month period to check on their progress after discharge from the program.

LAWN LIFE VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Lawn Life employs, trains, manages and supervises probationers referred by the Court. The program provides the probationer "hands-on" job training, development, and job readiness skills through coaching and on-site work experience. Various work locations normally include: landscaping or providing lawn service for private homes, and/or city owned locations, providing carpentry, masonry, and other skilled labor related activities. The program is dedicated to helping current "at risk" children by providing job skill(s) and employment opportunities for current probationers.

TALBERT HOUSE (SAFEGUARDS - SEX OFFENSE SPECIFIC TREATMENT)

Talbert House, Inc. contracts with the Court to provide ongoing group, individual and family treatment for youth adjudicated on sexual related offenses. These youth are maintained in the community but need intensive treatment for their sexually abusive behavior(s). The groups can accommodate approximately 7-8 youth at any given time, due to the lengthy nature of the treatment and the slow turnover that occurs. Additional youth are served individually.

CAMELOT CARE MDFT

The Court contracts with Camelot Care for juveniles on probation in need of intensive in-home drug and alcohol and mental health treatment. This program is a twelve-week program utilizing the best practice approach of MDFT (Multidimensional Family Therapy), which targets youth that have co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse.

ABRAXAS COUNSELING CENTER

Abraxas Youth and Family Services provides an outpatient program in Cincinnati to serve youth with alcohol and other drug (AOD) needs through group, individual, and "in-home" services. The primary recipients of this service are youth returning to the community from residential placement settings or youth that require intensive alcohol and other drug (AOD) counseling in order to improve behavior and avoid placement.

TEAM CHILD PROJECT

Team Child, a project of the Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati, provides interventions and advocacy so that children involved in the delinquency system can return to and remain in school and improve their educational success. Research shows that being out of school is a predictor of juvenile

crime. Improving academic performance and strengthening bonds to school lessen the risk of delinquency.

TRINIT-D (Mentoring Services)

The Court contracts with Trinit-D, Mentoring services to provide mentoring services for referred youth. The program matches a qualified mentor to each assigned probationer and the program is designed to socially assist and train high - risk youth. Through programming and community assistance, TRINIT-D helps clients to change behavior(s) and to make better decisions. The program's goal is to reduce Court involvement and reduce overall delinquent behavior in the community through strong mentorship, social skills enhancement and improved problem solving ability.

I DREAM ACADEMY (Mentoring Services)

In November 2013, as a pilot, the Court contracted with *I Dream Academy*. This group treatment and mentoring program was held out at Hillcrest Academy for placement youth that wished to begin mentoring services while in residential treatment. The *I Dream Academy* approach consists of eight group sessions focused on youth strengths and individual abilities. Upon the successful completion of the eight groups, the youth is then assigned an individual mentor. His assigned mentor then continues mentorship during the duration of the mentees stay at Hillcrest Academy and upon his release, into the community. A second *I Dream Academy* group is currently being implemented.

INTERSYSTEM SERVICE COLLABORATION

In an effort to work in coordination with outside child-serving systems, HCJC has partnered with the County's Intersystem Service Collaboration Committee. This joint effort consists of representation of several teams and entities. Representatives of Cincinnati Public Schools, *Team Child*, Hamilton County Department of Disability Services, Hamilton County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, and Hamilton County Job and Family Services all work together in order to help address the needs of those youth who cross systems. Part of each team's commitment includes staffing child and family cases in order to insure that all mental health and other service needs are met. Additionally, the team maintains an ongoing phone hotline for families to reach out to. The hotline responsibilities are manned on a rotating basis and are used as a County asset for families in need of local mental health, child advocacy, or other services. Finally, in addition to the intersystem collaboration committee, HCJC also actively collaborates with both the County's *Hope for Children and Families* and *Journey to Successful Living* programs.

- **HOPE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

This managed care wrap around program has been in existence within Hamilton County since 1995. The overall mission and purpose, as well as service operations, are as follows: to purchase, evaluate, and monitor a wide variety of services directed to the County's most difficult to serve multi-system children and their families. Funding comes from pooled dollars contributed by the major child-serving systems within the county. Youth receive a wide array of services ranging from community-based to residential, and remain in the program approximately 12-18 months based on their issues and needs.

- **JOURNEY TO SUCCESSFUL LIVING**

Journey is a youth driven, parent - guided approach to wrap around services. The Hamilton County *Journey* program is designed for youth in need of treatment or other outpatient

services. Youth referred and accepted into the program have been diagnosed with a mental health disorder and are in need of community - based services and support in order to successfully achieve their specific and individual life goals. Youth assigned to this program are considered able and ready to take on the challenges of their own life. These youth are assigned a *Journey* case worker and choose from an array of community services offered through the program. The goal is for the child to steer his or her own path and to take the lead in his or her own success.

COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

The Juvenile Court utilizes various residential placements to address the multiple needs of some of its client population and community safety risk. Usually these placements include an average length of stay of approximately six months, and satisfy a need that outpatient services cannot. Placements such as group homes and residential facilities in and outside the state have been utilized over this past year, including:

- Abraxas Youth Services
- Talbert House Boys Residential
- Talbert House Girls Residential
- Talbert House Adult Programs
- Glen Mills School
- The Village Network
- Tri-State Youth Academy
- Lighthouse Paint Creek
- Lighthouse Independent Living
- Foundations for Living
- Buckeye Ranch
- Children's Center of Ohio
- Sequel Youth Services (Lakeside)
- Altercrest
- Bellefaire JCB
- Oesterlen Youth Services
- Cedarbridge Youth Services Inc.
- Rite of Passage - Hillcrest Academy
- New Beginnings Group Home

In 2013, there were a total of 162 Juvenile Court youth received treatment while in placement at the above 19 facilities.

PLACEMENT AND ENHANCED REINTEGRATION TEAM (PERT)

PERT is comprised of 9 officers and 1 supervisor. Each PERT Probation Officer is assigned with the task of maintaining a specialized caseload of approximately 20-25 probationers that are placed in residential treatment and/or correctional settings. Team members receive enhanced Probation training and skill - building in order to successfully manage a high – risk population of youth with multiple needs and dynamic family situations. The overall goal of the team is to provide comprehensive re-entry services to youth returning from placement and reducing further risk of offending. The evidence-based treatment models of Functional Family Therapy (FFT),

Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) and Integrative Families and Systems Treatment (I-FAST) have been incorporated in the specialized services for identified youth. Anticipated outcomes are a reduction in recidivism and an increase in pro-social function in the community. Each youth and family assigned to the PERT team receives more intensive community-based supervision and services. This has helped to build a strong network of traditional and non-traditional supports for successful reintegration from the various placement settings back with their family, school, peers and community life.

HILLCREST ACADEMY

Hillcrest Academy operates a seventy bed correctional/treatment program for adjudicated delinquent males placed by the Court. The program primarily serves youth adjudicated of felony offenses and offers a wide range of services, which include: an on - grounds school, substance abuse programming, anger management programing, cognitive-behavioral restructuring, psychological services, organized sports, psychiatric services, health services, and skill- building. In 2012, the Hillcrest program successfully transitioned from an internal Hamilton County Juvenile Court (HCJC) program to a privatized residential treatment setting run by Rite of Passage (ROP), Inc. On May 1, 2012, ROP officially took full control of both the administrative and operational aspects of the day-to day operations at Hillcrest Academy. Calendar year 2013 was the first full year of ROP implemented operations. Through close interaction with the Court, ROP has successfully completed its transition process and is currently providing residential treatment programming for fifty –one HCJC probationers. Hillcrest Academy has maintained a close relationship with the University Of Cincinnati's (UC), Department of Corrections. The program has successfully implemented UC's substance abuse treatment curriculum and has incorporated Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) and trauma-informed treatment into its overall cognitive – behavioral intervention strategy. Over the past year, Hillcrest Academy has also added both vocational training and community service components to its programming. In 2013, 70 HCJC youth were served at Hillcrest Academy.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The purpose of the psychology clinic is to provide mental-health evaluations for the Juvenile Court system at the request of judges, magistrates, probation officers and both prosecuting and defense attorneys. The evaluations are to determine whether juvenile offenders are competent to stand trial, appropriate for waiver, and to assist in dispositional planning. Occasionally, referrals from the dependency docket request clinic staff to assist in custody matters. Each member of the Psychology Clinic rotates weekly 24 hour a day on-call responsibility. The court requested services in 2013 were:

CLINIC SERVICES	TOTAL
Psychological Evaluations	132
Amended Psychological	1
IDD / PDD Evaluations	1
Psychiatric Evaluations	7
Evaluations for Bind Over	14
Reversed Bind Overs	6
Sex Offender Risk Assessments	25
Competency to Stand Trial	173
Competency Attainment	785
Competency Treatment Plans	254
Job Applicants / Volunteers	8
Emergency Referrals	182
Detention High Risk Assessments	1,033
Neuro-Psychological Evaluations	1
Comprehensive Evaluations	1

SUPPORT SERVICES

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department, under the Support Services Division, is responsible for the preparation, expense and monitoring activity of the Annual County Operating budget and various state grants. Another major responsibility is the maintenance of employee sick and vacation records and production of the bi-weekly payroll. In addition, court ordered restitution is disbursed to the victim and child support for youth in placement is monitored.

2013 General Fund	Revenue	Expense
General Fund Subsidy	\$11,008,178.12	
Judges' Office	\$1,747,892.23	\$7,088,138.20
Youth Center	\$1,590,882.11	\$7,258,814.26
Hillcrest	\$1,103,786.46	\$1,103,786.46
TOTAL	\$15,450,738.92	\$15,450,738.92
Grants		
Reclaim Ohio / Youth Services	\$7,263,405.33	\$7,379,732.50
Mental Health Court	\$14,399.77	\$14,399.77
Community Control	\$51,072.28*	-
Hillcrest School	\$1,137,297.68*	-
Youth Center Food Service	-	\$28,477.72
Title IV-E	\$1,886,844.87	\$1,609,422.12
JAIBG	\$3,661.80	\$36,618.00
TOTAL	\$10,356,681.73	\$9,068,650.11
GRAND TOTAL	\$25,807,420.65	\$24,519,389.03

* reimbursements from prior year expenses

HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) DEPARTMENT

The Hamilton County Human Resources Department provided HR management services to Juvenile Court in 2013. The HR Department's services to Juvenile Court include:

- Wage, salary and benefits administration;
- Maintenance of personnel records;
- Management of the performance review program;
- Employee relations;
- Compliance with applicable labor laws.

PROJECTS

In 2013, the HR department streamlined the Court's hiring process with the implementation of an online Applicant Tracking System (ATS). The ATS provides the Court with a streamlined, more efficient way to track the screening of applications when making hiring decisions. Using this paperless process saves time, saves money, and enables everyone involved with a hiring process to track the status of all applicants in real time.

STAFFING LEVELS

Juvenile Court's staffing levels were steady in 2013, and most divisions had several vacancies that went unfilled throughout the year. On January 1, 2013, Juvenile Court had 267 employees, including 260 Full-Time employees and 7 Part-Time employees. On December 31, 2013, Juvenile Court had 276 employees, including 264 Full-Time employees and 12 Part-Time employees.

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

The basic function of the Operations Department is to determine the equipment and supply requirements for the Juvenile Court, maintain an inventory of supplies commensurate with the requirements and place all necessary vendor orders. It is the department's responsibility to maintain control of Court equipment by proper record keeping, conducting an annual inventory and monitoring maintenance contracts. The Operations Department handles the majority of the purchasing for the Juvenile Court, therefore, the department is also responsible for authenticating all invoices for payment.

The Operations Department also maintains a Print Shop for the purpose of developing, duplicating and reproducing all the forms that the Juvenile Court utilizes. The Operations Department is staffed with 2 full-time members. Along with the Operations Director, there is a Supply Clerk/Printer.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrative Services, as a division of the Court was established in 2011. The division is comprised of the Security Department, Information Services, Reasonable and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors (RECLAIM) management and the responsibility for the maintenance of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

SECURITY DEPARTMENT

The Juvenile Court Security Department is comprised of ten full time Law Enforcement Officers and one Chief. The Security Officers have been certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission and have received specific and advanced training. The department operates in compliance with the Supreme Court of Ohio, Court Security Standards. The department is responsible for providing safety, security, and detainee transports within Juvenile Court at 800 Broadway, Youth Center, Community Services Work Detail and Hamilton County Courthouse. The Security Department is also responsible for detainee transports to and from other jurisdictions as required by the courts.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Services Department is comprised of six full-time employees and two contract positions. Staff is responsible for the design, development, implementation and support maintenance of the Court's computer hardware and software at all three court locations. The help desk call center closed over 705 tickets, installed new courtroom printers and updated the mobile smart phones in 2013. Also during 2013, the network group continued with server consolidations and relocated all the servers to a new consolidated computer room which has redundant air cooling systems. The department also completed approximately 60 public records requests. The development staff updated multiple modules of the Juvenile Court Management System to accommodate changes in legislation, Judicial requests, Ohio Supreme Court reporting and to assist the Court Services department with federal reporting.

HAMILTON COUNTY JUVENILE COURT YOUTH CENTER



YOUTH CENTER

The Youth Center is a locked, secure facility that provides short-term confinement and structured programming for youth awaiting adjudication, waiting transfer to another jurisdiction or agency, or serving a short-term commitment ordered by the Juvenile Court. While in detention, youth have access to medical, dental, and mental health services. Education services are provided 5 days a week through Cincinnati Public Schools. Programming for residents at the Youth Center is focused on the use of cognitive behavioral strategies to help youth develop socially acceptable skills and encourage good decision making.

In 2013, the Youth Center processed 6,074 intakes (youth presented to detention under arrest), which represents a 4% increase from the previous year. In addition, the average daily population increased by 20% from seventy-five (75) to ninety (90) youth in detention, with an average length of stay of fourteen (14) days. This change is largely attributable to the housing of young adults ages 18 – 21 with juvenile charges as required by Senate Bill 337, implemented October 2012. The Youth Center continues to effectively manage the increase in population and staffing demands since instituting the new young adult unit. Recently, the facility implemented a comprehensive behavior management program, refined visitation procedures, and assigned a dedicated supervisor to the unit in order to provide continued oversight.

Despite the aforementioned increases, there were 2,340 youth (approximately 39% of intakes) admitted to detention with 3,664 youth diverted from detention after arrest. Many of the youth diverted from admission to the Youth Center who have been adjudicated for a delinquent offense are ordered to participate in a diversion program rather than serve an equivalent time in locked detention. Diversion programs are designed to hold youth accountable, enhance public safety, as well as to help prevent youth from immersing further into the juvenile justice system.

In keeping with the primary objective of maintaining the safety and security of youth in its care, the Youth Center filled several key positions as well as strengthened its collaborative strategies with the Court Services division. The Youth Center hired and trained 22 new juvenile corrections officers to fill vacancies left by retirements and resignations. In addition, the Training Manager and Special Services Manager positions were filled. Finally, in a cooperative effort between the Youth Center and the Psychology and Intervention units, a streamlined referral process was initiated in order to meet the unique needs of youth during and after their short-term stay.

RESIDENT HOUSING

The overall goal of the housing department is to ensure the safety and security of youth its custody. The Youth Center maintains an availability of 90 beds on two separate floors. The third housing floor remains unoccupied due to budget constraints. Youth Center staff provide intensive supervision and offer secure, humane, and quality treatment. In order to meet the unique needs of residents in our care and custody, juvenile corrections officers are often required to fill simultaneously custodial, supervisory and counseling roles. Youth are treated with respect and given the opportunity to make positive choices that will help them improve their lives.

In 2013, the department continued a multi-phased security upgrade of the technology used throughout the housing units. Recent improvements to the security system and cameras have provided officers with a greater range of observation in order to provide safety for residents and

security of guests during visitations. The housing units were also equipped with computer tablets in order to increase staff efficiency in completing daily monitoring reports and reduce paper costs.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The mission of the Staff Development and Training division is to provide the most effective and up-to-date training and evaluation to employees of the Youth Center. Youth in detention overwhelmingly face multiple challenges which require specialized training to mitigate conflict and foster an environment which promotes pro-social skill development. All Juvenile Corrections Officers and contracted staff at the Youth Center receive annual mandatory Core Competency Training in areas that include CPR and Standard First Aid, Automatic External Defibrillator, Bloodborne Pathogens, Communicable Diseases, Emergency Response, Self-Defense/Physical Intervention Training, Crisis Prevention (suicide prevention and intervention), and Verbal De-Escalation. Staff who directly interact with residents receive a minimum of 40 hours of training annually in accordance with Ohio Department of Youth Services standards. All newly hired direct service staff receive 165 hours of pre-service and on-the-job training hours before being released to active duty.

In 2013, the Training Department provided 13,656 hours of instruction and hands-on training. In addition, the department partnered with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office to provide new training opportunities for staff on emerging trends in gangs and street drugs.

EDUCATION SERVICES

The Educational Services division is a satellite of Cincinnati Public Schools and is staffed by highly qualified teachers and paraprofessionals. While youth are placed at the Youth Center, the division abides by all state and federal mandates of a traditional school system. The educational services provided consistently meet or exceed the standards set by the Ohio Department of Education and the Department of Youth Services.

Upon entering detention, youths' abilities are assessed and each student receives a personal education plan. The division also administers the Ohio Graduation and Ohio Achievement Assessment tests and offers a pre-GED program. While in detention, the division coordinates with each student's school and teachers to ensure information concerning the student's progress is appropriately shared.

Youth in detention receive instruction in core academic areas including Math, Science, Reading, History, Art, Physical Education and Financial Literacy. Teachers utilize a variety of educational resources and instructional strategies including web-based curriculum software, thematic teaching, cooperative learning, and hands-on activities. In addition, all students have access to a lending library as well as an after-school tutoring program for students who need additional instruction.

Notably, students at the Youth Center have won several local and statewide art competitions. In addition, in cooperation with other local districts, some have donated their artwork for sale to benefit schools around the world.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In addition to meeting the basic needs of the youth in our care and custody, the Youth Center delivers programming that affords youth the opportunity to begin to develop beneficial social life skills. Programming is strategically focused on reducing recidivism and increasing the opportunity for

successful reintegration by assisting youth in reclaiming their lives and becoming productive citizens of the community. In 2013, the Youth Center's Recreation and Volunteer Services division engaged a diverse group of nearly 80 local citizens, members of the faith-based community, and other stakeholders to provide 3,218 hours of programming focused on providing life skills, substance abuse prevention, health and hygiene counseling, arts and crafts, anger management, conflict resolution and job readiness skills to residents. All community volunteers undergo a criminal background check and orientation process before interacting with residents at the Youth Center.

COMMUNITY SERVICES WORK DETAIL

The Work Detail program is a dispositional option for adjudicated youth in Hamilton County Juvenile Court. The main purpose of the program is to encourage youth in the development of accountability for their delinquent behavior through a productive, short-term work experience. The Work Detail program operates under the fundamental ideology of restorative justice in youth giving back to society for the damage they have caused. Youth are given the opportunity to work off court ordered restitution owed to their victims and service hours owed to the community.

The Work Detail program makes every attempt to ensure that work projects involving youth is a positive experience for all parties involved. In 2013, 379 youth performed Daily Work Details and 1,065 youth performed Saturday Work Details for a total of 2,652 Work Detail service days. The program partnered with several non-profit agencies and community service projects to arrange a variety of meaningful work sites throughout the community. These included Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Hamilton County Park District, Hamilton County Environmental Services, Great American Cleanup, Mt. Auburn Community Day, and Cincinnati Zoo. Work Detail projects completed by the youth add real value to participating agencies and the community.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES

All youth detained at the Youth Center receive a medical screening upon intake as well as a comprehensive health assessment at admission to address any immediate medical concerns. The Youth Center contracts with Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center to provide medical coverage 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to the residents in its care. Through a partnership with the Ohio Department of Health youth have access to STD testing and treatment. The standard of care at the Youth Center also includes intervention-focused protocols to address and educate youth on management of chronic disease, health and nutrition, and substance abuse prevention. Healthcare services at the Youth Center are accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC). The Youth Center also contracts with a separate provider to address youths' acute dental needs.

Number of Medical Screenings	3,490
Number of Full Physical Examinations	819
Number of Sick Call Examinations	1,828
Number of Dental Screenings	325

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

The Facilities Maintenance department is a division of the County which oversees the general condition and operational efficiency of the Youth Center. The division is responsible for establishing a schedule of preventative maintenance on mechanical and electrical systems, structures, and the

outside grounds. In 2013, the facilities maintenance team instituted a number of capital improvement projects aimed at increasing energy efficiency and overall sustainability of the building. Key initiatives included installing automation controls for air handlers and upgrading plumbing to increase system performance as well as reduce overall water consumption.

OPERATIONS

The Operations division is comprised of the Intake Office and the Facility Control. The Intake Office is the central point of arrival and departure for all youth entering and exiting the facility. The division is responsible for processing youth at intake including gathering information concerning youths' personal, physical, and mental health history. In addition, Intake staff work in conjunction with the Cincinnati Police Department to process complaints, bonds, arrest documents, and emergency orders. In an effort to continuously improve operational processes, the Intake Office, in collaboration with the Psychology and Intervention units has recently revised the department's Mental Health Screening protocol. Specifically, new measures have been implemented to identify, deescalate, and effectively manage potential behavioral issues of youth during the intake process.

The Facility Control Department is vital to maintaining a safe and secure environment for residents, staff, and visitors of the Youth Center. Staff assigned to the department control movement inside the building, monitor the perimeter of the facility, and serve as the initial contact for court officials, agencies, and visitors entering the building. Additionally, from inside the control booth, staff provide indirect supervision of housing units to ensure the rights of residents are protected as well as provide an additional layer of proactive behavior management.

ACCREDITATION

PERFORMANCE BASED STANDARDS (PbS) was launched by the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to challenge youth-serving agencies to deliver effective and safe rehabilitation and reentry services for youths in custody. PbS monitors youths' constitutional rights to reasonable safety, adequate medical and mental health treatment, rehabilitative programming and education. In 2013, the Youth Center participated in two reporting cycles which measured the facility's continued compliance with standards for safety, operation, programs, and services provided to youth and overall work environment for staff.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE (NCCHC) offers a voluntary health services accreditation program utilizing external peer review to evaluate the quality of healthcare in jails, prisons, and juvenile confinement facilities. The Youth Center has continued its position as an industry leader as evidenced by the development and successful implementation of the improvement plans established in the facility's most recent accreditation audit in 2012. The next re-accreditation will occur in 2015.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES (ODYS) is the juvenile corrections system for the State of Ohio. ODYS ensures that facilities within its jurisdiction adhere to the standards for juvenile detention facilities as set forth in the Ohio Administrative Code, 5139-37. An inspection of the Hamilton County Juvenile Court Youth Center completed July 2013 indicated that the facility continues to operate in compliance with 100% of "Mandatory" standards.



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